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S&H Form: (2/01)  
Attorney Docket No. 953.1011

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Hitoshi SATO et al.

Application No.: 10/659,252

Group Art Unit: 1764

Confirmation No.: 3550

Filed: September 11, 2003

Examiner: Colleen P. Cooke

For: EXHAUST HAS PURIFYING METHOD AND EXHAUST GAS PURIFYING SYSTEM

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2006, having a period for response set to expire April 24, 2006.

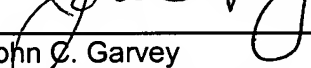
In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement. The applicants hereby elect the Group I claims (claims 1-4) without traverse.

Favorable examination of claims 1-4 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 4, 2006

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